

Duluth Parking Commission
Forty-Seventh Meeting
7:30 a.m. Friday, September 2, 2016
City Council Chambers, Duluth City Hall

Members Present

- Andy Goldfine
- Howie Hanson, Vice President
- Andy McDonald, President
- Chad Smith
- Jessica Sterle
- Karin Swor
- Matthew Kennedy, Ex Officio

Members Absent

- Steve LaFlamme

Guests Present

- Mark Bauer, Parking Operations Specialist – City of Duluth

Approval of 5/6/16 minutes

Commission Vice President Howie Hanson motioned to approve the 5/6/16 parking commission meeting minutes without change. Commissioner Andy Goldfine seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0 (Commissioner Jessica Sterle abstaining).

Approval of 6/3/16 minutes

Commissioner Hanson motioned to approve the 6/3/16 parking commission meeting minutes without change. Commissioner Karin Swor seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0 (Commissioner Sterle abstaining).

Approval of 8/5/16 minutes

Commissioner Sterle motioned to approve the 8/5/16 parking commission meeting minutes without change. Commissioner Hanson seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0.

Proposal to prohibit parking on a portion of 34th Avenue West during Wade Stadium events

City of Duluth Parking Manager Matthew Kennedy introduced a proposal to prohibit parking on a portion of 34th Avenue West during Wade Stadium events. Mr. Bauer described the proposal, which would prohibit parking from a point south of West 2nd Street to the entrance to the Wade Stadium parking lot and provided details on the area's other parking configurations, which were illustrated on a map. He explained that the request for the configuration change was presented to the parking division by the City of Duluth Parks and Recreation Division and that reason for the proposal was to enhance access and safety in the area. Mr. Bauer stated that the street was not wide enough to allow for safe passage of emergency vehicles and that an area business had complained that access to his property was hindered by vehicles parking in the area during stadium events. Commissioner Goldfine motioned that the proposal be approved as presented. Commissioner Sterle seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0.

Proposal to adjust fire department parking zone signage on Commonwealth Avenue

Mr. Kennedy introduced a proposal to adjust fire department parking zone signage on Commonwealth Avenue, adjacent to the Gary Fire Station. Mr. Bauer explained that the needs of the building tenants had changed due to the closing of a senior center on-site, which had resulted in the current proposal to eliminate an on-street ADA parking zone and to relocate and relabel an on-street parking zone for fire department employees. Mr. Bauer stated that the fire department was supportive of the change and that there were no other area stakeholders. Commissioner Swor motioned that the proposal be approved. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0.

Proposal to convert a loading zone on East 4th Street to a ten-minute drop-off zone

Mr. Kennedy introduced a proposal to convert a loading zone on the 800 block of East 4th Street, adjacent to the Duluth Family Medicine Clinic, to a ten-minute drop-off zone. Mr. Bauer stated that the clinic staff had requested the change to better serve the current needs of their visitors. He stated that there were no other area stakeholders in the matter. Commissioner Sterle motioned that the proposal be approved. Commissioner Goldfine seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0.

Proposal to convert a 15-minute meter on 5th Avenue East to a two-hour meter

Mr. Kennedy introduced a proposal to convert a 15-minute single-space meter on 5th Avenue East to a two-hour meter. Mr. Bauer explained that the 15-minute meter had been in place to serve the needs of a barber shop adjacent to the space that was no longer in business. Commissioner Hanson confirmed that the barber shop had left the area some time previously. Commissioner Swor motioned that the proposal be approved. Commissioner Goldfine seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0.

Proposal to add a time limit to a drop-off zone at the Evergreen Senior Center

Mr. Kennedy introduced a proposal to add a ten-minute time limit to an existing off-street drop-off zone adjacent to the Evergreen Senior Center on Grand Avenue. Mr. Bauer stated that the management of the senior center requested the time limit after noting consistent long-term parking stays in the area. He added that although the zone is located off-street, it is on city property, justifying its inclusion in the parking commission agenda. Commissioner Smith motioned that the proposal be approved. Commissioner Swor seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0.

Proposal to adjust the parking configuration on a portion of Vinland Avenue

Mr. Kennedy introduced a proposal to adjust the parking configuration on a portion of Vinland Avenue. Mr. Bauer explained that the intent of the proposal was to enhance safety near Bay View Elementary School by relocating a 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. further from the entrance of the school parking lot and better defining an on-street no parking zone in front of the school. Mr. Bauer stated that he had meet with residents of two adjacent properties, both of whom expressed support for the proposal. Commissioner Sterle motioned that the proposal be approved. Commissioner Goldfine seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0.

Proposal to prohibit parking on a portion of Wallace Avenue

Mr. Kennedy introduced a proposal to prohibit parking on a portion of Wallace Avenue. Mr. Bauer stated that the resident of 1924 Wallace Avenue had requested a parking setback that would ensure safe access to his driveway, which was located at the end of a dead-end street that constricts to a very narrow width, presenting concerns regarding access for emergency and service vehicles. Commissioner Smith motioned that the proposal be approved. Commissioner Sterle seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0.

Proposal to convert one metered stall and a portion of a bus stop on West Superior Street to two ten-minute drop-off zones

Mr. Kennedy introduced a proposal to convert one metered stall and a portion of a bus stop on West Superior Street to two ten-minute drop-off zones. Mr. Bauer stated that a representative of the interests of a new deli that was planning to open a location in the Maurices building had requested the spaces, which were primarily intended to serve take-out customers of the new business. He stated that all surveyed area stakeholders supported the conversion of the spaces and that the bus stop was unusually long. Commissioner Goldfine motioned that the proposal be approved. Commissioner Sterle seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0.

Proposal to convert a portion of Congdon Park Drive to a no stopping or standing zone

Mr. Kennedy introduced a proposal to convert a portion of Congdon Park Drive to a no stopping or standing zone. He stated that the intent of the proposal was to prevent vehicles from parking or stopping on the street adjacent to Congdon Elementary School. Commissioner Sterle inquired whether the school's administration had been consulted on the proposal – Mr. Kennedy replied that they had not. Commissioner Goldfine suggested that a study be performed on the school's adjacent parking lot to gauge demand. Commissioner McDonald requested that the map associated with the proposal be expanded to include other available parking in the area. Commissioner Hanson motioned that the proposal be tabled pending further study by the parking division. Commissioner Goldfine seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0.

On-street ADA signage requests

Mr. Kennedy proposed that four on-street ADA signage requests be approved. Mr. Bauer stated that all four had been reviewed and recommended for approval by the parking division. Commissioner Hanson expressed concerns regarding the safety of the requested ADA signage request at 2324 West 3rd Street, stating that the space might be located too near the intersection of 3rd Street and 24th Avenue West. Commissioner Hanson motioned to table the signage request for 2324 Avenue West pending further study by the parking and traffic engineering divisions. Commissioner Swor seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0. Commissioner Swor motioned that the remaining three ADA signage requests be approved. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0.

Downtown Parking Advisory Committee update

Mr. Kennedy discussed the postponement of the planned Superior Street redevelopment project and described options related to the previously-discussed first-hour-free proposal for the off-street parking ramps. Commissioner Goldfine stated that a decision should soon be made whether the ramps' rate structures would be adjusted to create a revenue-neutral scenario should such a proposal be presented to city council or if a proposal would feature a simple waiver of parking fees for the first hour. Mr. Kennedy stated that he had asked a representative of the Greater Downtown Council whether the businesses represented by the GDC might be willing to contribute money to offset the potential revenue loss associated with the "true first hour free" scenario and had been told that this would not likely receive much support from the businesses. Commissioner McDonald suggested that the scenarios continue to be considered.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Bauer, CPP
Parking Operations Specialist